AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. Canceled.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for treating and/or inhibiting progression and/or symptoms of a fibrotic disease selected from a connective tissue diesase, scleroderma, fibrosis of the skin, Dupuytren's contracture, keloid, scarring and fibrosis of the pancreas comprising administering to a patient in need of treatment therefor a therapeutically effect amount of a substance selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 22 to 401 of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

c) a polypeptide comprising amino acids 22 to 194 of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4;

d) a mutein of any of (a) to (c), wherein the amino acid sequence has at least 90 % identity to at least one of the sequences in (a) to (c);

e) a mutein of any of (a) to (c) which is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes to the complement of the DNA sequence encoding any of (a) to (c) under washing conditions of 12-20°C below the calculated Tm of the hybrid of the DNA sequence of the mutein and the complement in 2 x SSC and 0.5% SDS for 5 minutes and which reduces collagen synthesis; and

f) ~~a mutein of any of (a) to (e) wherein any changes in the amino acid sequence are conservative amino acid substitutions to the amino acid sequences in. (a) to (e); and~~

~~g)~~ a salt or fused protein of any of (a) to (e) [[(f)]].

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the fibrotic disease is a connective tissue disease.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the fibrotic disease is scleroderma.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the substance is a monomer or dimer.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the substance is glycosylated at one or more sites.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the substance is a fused protein and wherein the fused protein comprises an immunoglobulin (Ig) fusion.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the Ig fusion is an Fc fusion.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the substance ~~functional derivative~~ comprises at least one moiety attached to one or more functional groups, which occur as one or more side chains on the amino acid residues.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the moiety is a polyethylene glycol moiety.

35-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the substance is produced by an isolated cell.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the substance is produced by [[a]] an isolated cell genetically modified to produce said substance.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising simultaneously, sequentially, or separately administering an interferon.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the interferon is interferon-β.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising simultaneously, sequentially, or separately administering a Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF) antagonist.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the TNF antagonist is TBPI and/or TBPII.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising simultaneously, sequentially, or separately administering an anti-scleroderma agent.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the anti-scleroderma agent is selected from the group consisting of halofuginone, ACE inhibitors, calcium channel blockers, proton pump inhibitors, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, COX-inhibitors, corticosteroids, tetracycline, pentoxifylline, bucillamine, geranylgeranyl transferase inhibitors, rotterlin, prolyl-4-hydroxlase inhibitors, c-proteinase inhibitors, lysyl-oxidase inhibitors, relaxin, prostaglandins, prostacyclins, endothelin-1, nitric oxide, angiotensin II inhibitors, anti-oxidants and SARP-1.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the fibrotic disease is a connective tissue disease.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the fibrotic disease is scleroderma.